

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-20  
JUNE 5, 2003***

***Information Technology  
Telecommunications Program***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** CIO14 (M. Sikorski)  
**Type of Issuance:** Initial

**Certified by:** CIO (B. West)

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This chapter supercedes NWS WSOM Chapter G-01, Issuance 93-02, “Communications Program,” dated March 26, 1993.

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1. This directive establishes policy for the acquisition and management of telecommunications facilities and services needed to support the primary mission of the National Weather Service (NWS). The primary mission of the National Weather Service (NWS) is to provide timely delivery of weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings to the public, the private sector, other governmental agencies, and the global community for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.
2. The objective of the NWS Telecommunications Program is to provide cost-effective telecommunications facilities and services needed to support the NWS mission. It is the policy of the NWS to utilize telecommunications services under existing Government-wide contracts administered by the Government Services Administration (GSA) whenever they offer the most cost effective solution. The NWS may also enter into cooperative agreements, as appropriate, with other Government agencies to provide the most cost-effective telecommunications service.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring appropriate allocation of available agency funds to provide the telecommunications infrastructure needed to support the NWS mission.
  - 3.2 The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for ensuring NWS compliance with federal and Department of Commerce (DOC)/NOAA telecommunications regulations and policies.
  - 3.3 The Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (CIO14), Office of the CIO, is responsible for the acquisition and management of all centrally operated national and international telecommunications networks operated by the NWS.

3.4 The Operations Support and Performance Monitoring Branch (CIO11), Office of the CIO, is responsible for providing real-time management and support to all centrally operated NWS networks.

3.5 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is responsible for acquiring and managing specialized telecommunications facilities needed to support all NCEP field operations.

3.6 Each Regional Headquarters office is responsible for the acquisition and management of unique regional telecommunications networks and circuits.

3.7 Regional/NCEP Directors and the CIO are responsible for ensuring that all telecommunications services are acquired in accordance with established Federal and Department of Commerce/NOAA regulations.

3.8 NWS regional and field offices are responsible for reporting telecommunications outages to the telecommunications vendor and for escalation to CIO14 when recurring outages cannot be resolved at the local/regional level.

4. The effectiveness of this policy and its conformance to applicable federal and DOC/NOAA regulations and directives will be reviewed annually.

Signed by I. T. David for	May 22, 2003
John J. Kelly, Jr.	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

1. Mission Statement of the National Weather Service:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mission.shtml>